

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs

# Annual Report 2003

César Chávez, Activist

*Pablo Picasso, Painter*

*Felipe II, King*

**Frida Kahlo, Painter**

Ellen Ochoa, Astronaut

Emiliano Zapata, Statesman

Simón Bolívar, Liberator

Pablo Neruda, Poet

Miguel de Cervantes, Writer

Diego Rivera, Painter

**Antoni Gaudí, Architect**

*Gabriela Mistral, Writer*

Plácido Domingo, Musician

*Juan Ponce De Leon, Explorer*

State of Michigan, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs

Marylou Olivarez-Mason, Executive Director

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

David C. Hollister, Director

# **Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs**

## **Commissioners**

Manuel Alfonso, Auburn Hills  
Nelida B. Bravo, White Lake  
Randall Fernandez, Port Huron  
George E. Fierro, Hamilton  
Carlos Hidalgo, Grand Rapids  
Emily Martinez, Blissfield  
Johnny Morales, Lansing  
Maria Gutierrez Ostrander, Dewitt  
Mariano Pallares, Southfield  
Sergio Paneque, Laingsburg  
Frances Plets, Clinton Township  
Anna Maria Rodriguez, Detroit  
Juanita Sylvia Rogers, Northport  
John Sanchez, Bridgeport  
Ricardo J. Verdoni, Saginaw

## **Commission Staff**

Marylou Olivarez-Mason, Executive Director  
Victoria Potter, Administrative Assistant

## **Commission Interns**

Daniel Katz  
Joanna Wayburn  
Michelle Mikaelian  
Brenda Wickline  
Natalia Drelichman

## **Executive Committee**

Mariano Pallares, Chairperson  
Ricardo Verdoni, Vice Chairperson  
Manuel Alfonso, Secretary  
Nelida Bravo, Trustee  
George Fierro, Trustee

## **Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

Education .....	George Fierro
Migrant/Agriculture .....	Emily Martinez
Business/Economic Development .....	Manuel Alfonso Mariano Pallares
Elderly/Health .....	Emily Martinez Frances Plets
Translations .....	Mariano Pallares Nelida Bravo Ricardo Verdoni

## **Governor's Office Liaison**

Bryan Crenshaw

## **Legislative Liaison**

State Senator Valde Garcia

## **Commissioners**

# **Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs**

## **Public Act 164 of 1975**

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs was created in 1975 for the purpose of developing policies and plans of action to serve, be an advocate for, and represent the needs of the Hispanic communities within Michigan.

The Commission by statute, P.A. 164 of 1975, is directed to:

- n Advise the governor and the legislature concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving Hispanics.
- n Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding changes in state programs, statutes, and policies.
- n Advise the governor and legislature of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Hispanics. Review and advise the governor and the legislature on the state's policies concerning Hispanic affairs.
- n Review and approve grants to be made from federal, state or private funds, which are administered by the office.
- n Secure appropriate recognition of Hispanic accomplishments and contributions to this state.
- n Review and approve the Annual Report by the Office of Spanish-Speaking Affairs.

The policies of the Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs are carried out by the Office of Spanish-Speaking Affairs, which is directed by statute to:

- n Conduct studies and recommend solutions to the problems of Hispanics in the areas of education, employment, civil rights, health, housing, senior citizens, and other related areas.
- n Recommend to federal, state, and local governmental departments and agencies the creation of services and facilities as needed.
- n Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental departments and agencies to assure that Hispanics have access to decision-making bodies, the policies of which affect Hispanics in this state.
- n Cooperate with departments and agencies to aid in effectuating the purposes of this act.
- n Submit a full written report of its activities and recommendations each year to the governor, legislature, and various Hispanic communities throughout the state.
- n Serve as a clearinghouse of information about Hispanics.

The governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints the members of the Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs for three-year terms. The 15 Commissioners are of Hispanic origin and are representative of the Michigan Hispanic population.

# **La Comisión de Asuntos Hispanos de Michigan Acto Publico 164 de 1975**

La Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos fue creada en el año 1975 con el propósito de desarrollar regulaciones y planes de acción que proporcionen servicios, defiendan los derechos y enfoquen las necesidades de las comunidades Hispánicas de Michigan.

El Acto Público 164 de 1975 dirige a la Comisión a:

- n Aconsejar al Gobernador, la Legislatura, y la Oficina en relación a la coordinación y administración de los programas estatales que prestan servicios a los Hispanos.
- n Hacer recomendaciones al Gobernador y a la Legislatura en relación a cambios en los programas, estatutos y regulaciones estatales.
- n Aconsejar al Gobernador y a la Legislatura sobre la naturaleza, magnitud y prioridades de problemas que afectan a los Hispanos. Repasar y asesorar al Gobernador y a la Legislatura sobre las políticas estatales que afecten a los Hispanos.
- n Repasar y aprobar las donaciones hechas con fondos federales, estatales o privados, las cuales son administradas por la Oficina.
- n Asegurar el reconocimiento apropiado de los éxitos y contribuciones de los Hispanos por todo el estado de Michigan.
- n Repasar y aprobar el Reporte Annual preparado por la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos.

Las políticas de la Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos son implementadas por la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos, la cual está dirigida por el estatuto a:

- n Conducir estudios y recomendar soluciones para los problemas de los Hispanos en las áreas de educación, empleo, derechos civiles, salud, vivienda, ancianidad, y otras áreas relacionadas.
- n Recomendar a los departamentos y agencias del gobierno federal, estatal y local, la creación de servicios y facilidades que sean necesarios.
- n Solicitar y aceptar donaciones y regalos de fuentes gubernamentales y privadas para asegurarse que los Hispanos tengan acceso a órganos legislativos que dictan leyes que afectan a los Hispanos en el estado de Michigan.
- n Cooperar con los departamentos y agencias que ayudan a implementar los propósitos de esta Acta.
- n Someter un reporte escrito anual de sus actividades y recomendaciones al Gobernador, a la Legislatura, y a las varias comunidades Hispánicas del estado de Michigan.
- n Servir como un centro de recopilación, distribución y referencia de información sobre asuntos Hispánicos.

El Gobernador, con el consejo y consentimiento del Senado, nombra a los miembros de la Comisión por términos de tres años. Los 15 comisionados son de origen Hispánico y representan a la población Hispánica de Michigan.

## **Public Act 164 of 1975**

# Background Information on Hispanic Americans

## Who are the Hispanic Americans?

The United States Government defines “Hispanics” as people who are of Spanish, Portuguese, or Latin American (Central or South American) descent. The three largest groups are Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans.

Just as there is a wide variety of Hispanic groups; there is a variety of terms these groups use to refer to themselves. The term Hispanic is a general term that includes all these groups.

Some prefer the term Latino instead of Hispanic. Other Hispanic Americans refer to themselves by their particular group — that is, Cuban American, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, etc. Some Mexican Americans prefer the term Chicano.

## How many Americans are Hispanic?

The 2004 Census Bureau revealed there were 35.6 million Hispanic Americans in the United States. (That is 12.6 percent of the country’s total population of 282.1 million). The census bureau estimates there will be 47.8 million Hispanics by the year 2010 and 59.8 million by 2020. In the next 10 years, Hispanics will compose the country’s largest minority at 15.5 percent of the total population while African Americans will make up 13.1 percent of the same.

The Hispanic population is increasing quickly. Much of the population increase is due to immigration, mostly from Mexico. A second reason is the high birthrate among Hispanics.

## Have you heard about Hispanic Heritage Month?

Many Americans still have not, since it is a relatively new celebration. Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15–October 15, was set by presidential proclamation to commemorate the contributions made Hispanics throughout our nation's history. It is a month to reflect on not only the past, but also the future role, of Hispanics in the United States.

On September 17, 1968, the U.S. Congress, by joint resolution, approved, authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman, Congressman Esteban Torres, introduced legislation requesting the extension of the commemorative period to one month. The bill passed and it was enacted into Public Law on August 17, 1988.

## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated in Michigan

A gala event at Michigan's State Capitol on October 1, 2003, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month 2003. Hundreds of participants enjoyed the festivities, including Hispanic foods, music and street banners surrounding the Capitol building and along downtown streets.

Accompanied by the sounds of local musicians, and authentic Mexican food, one of the highlights of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the State Capitol was the Awards and Scholarship Dinner sponsored by the Hispanic Legislative Caucus. This year's event honored seven individuals for their community achievements.

The **Outstanding Artistic Leadership Award** was given to **Maria Luz Valdez** of Lansing, MI, founder and Director of El Ballet de Maria Luz Valdez, formerly known as Fantasia. Maria Valdez has dedicated her life toward the betterment of her community through the art of song and dance. Through her personal efforts, her dance students have had the opportunity to travel to Mexico on several occasions for various dance conferences.

**Frederick Feliciano** of Deaborn, MI, was honored with the **Outstanding Hispanic/Business/Economic Development Award**. He is the current multi-cultural liaison to the mayor of Detroit. He is also the president of the Board of Directors for the Hispanic Business Alliance. Mr. Feliciano has gained the respect and admiration of all those who have had the pleasure to work with him.

**Lupe Ramos-Montigny** of Grand Rapids, MI, was given the **Outstanding Hispanic Advocate/Civic Duty Award**. She has advocated tirelessly for the rights of Hispanics across the state of Michigan. For the past 25 years, she has worked with the Grand Rapids Public Schools as a migrant education teacher. Notably, she is the co-founder of the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan and the first Hispanic president of Region 9 of the Michigan Education Association.

The **Outstanding Hispanic Educator Award** was given to **Francisco Garcia** of Holland, MI. He is the current principal of Holland High School. He has worked tirelessly over the last three decades to promote education in the Hispanic community. He also serves on several community boards in the greater Holland area.

**Sixto Olivo** of Burton, MI, was given the **Outstanding Hispanic Lifetime Achievement Award**. He has given selflessly to the Hispanic community through his work with numerous organizations such as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee, Spanish Speaking Information Board, and the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Olivo's commitment to service is a testament to his strength of character.

In addition, two Hispanic high school students were awarded college scholarships. Each student received \$1,000. The students are **Rachel Suitor** of Freeland, MI, and **Ciara R. Feko** of Adrian, MI.



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

## Informational Resources

Under the Vienna Convention of 1963, every country has the right and the duty to identify its nationals living, working or traveling abroad. The United States and Mexico, among 160 other countries signed this international treaty. However, Mexico, through its consulate offices in the United States, started the process of issuing Consular IDs in 1871. Most recently, Mexico started using the Polaroid camera's technology. Due to 9/11, the Mexican government designed a new ID card using state of the art technology, making it more reliable and useful.

The Matricula Consular is an individual personal identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate to a person who can prove his or her Mexican nationality by presenting supporting documents: birth certificate, official photo ID card (government-issued), other documents that prove Mexican nationality, proof of address (bills, etc.), and applications must be submitted personally. The most common uses of the Matricula Consular are to identify one with law enforcement authorities (police, sheriff, Homeland Security, etc.), to identify individuals in case of injuries or fatalities, to apply for public utilities (phone, gas, water, electric, etc.), and for identification at educational institutions and public libraries as a parent or user.

Additionally, the Matricula Consular provides important services for the Hispanic community like ability to cash checks, deposit money in financial institutions (banks, etc.), pay bills and taxes, and send money to family and relatives for a reasonable fee.

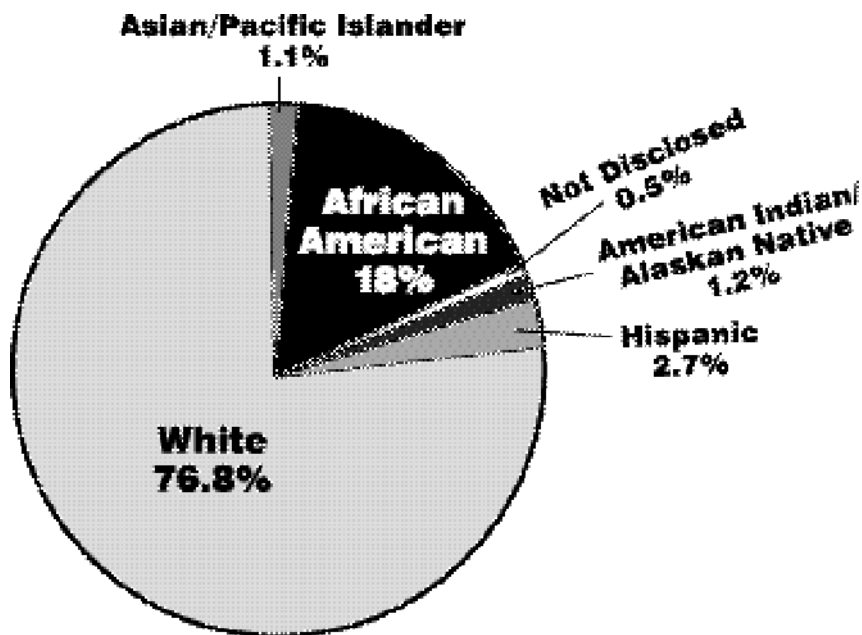
Finally, a number of law enforcement authorities in Michigan have agreed to use the Matricula Consular for humanitarian purposes such as sheriff offices and police departments in the community, 24-hour hotlines to verify Consular ID user's background in Michigan, to contact emergency liaisons of relatives, in dealing with juveniles, pregnant women, illness of individuals, seniors, and persons under Homeland Security or Border Patrol detention, witnesses in criminal cases, prevention as victims from robbers, and from cultural and language barriers during police investigations.



## Classified Employee Race/Ethnic Group Distribution Fiscal Year 2003

**Total Minorities: 12,478**

**Grand Total: 55,041**



Source: MAIN MIDB Civil Service HWF21, for the pay period ending 9-27-03  
and for the last pay period in each previous fiscal year

**Population Data**

## **2003 Accomplishments for the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs Include:**

- n Co-sponsored the 2003 Hispanic Heritage Month annual event at the capitol and statewide calendar of events. There were 55 events throughout the state. Also, 1000 students from throughout Michigan attended the Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration held on October 1, 2003, at the Capitol, along with the recognition reception and awards dinner. The keynote speakers were State Representative Joaquin Castro and Councilman Julian Castro from San Antonio, Texas. About 250 individuals attended this evening event.
- n Co-sponsored the Annual Farmworkers Conference/MAFO in Miami, Florida, which assists in the development of national and state policies that provide the most effective delivery of services to migrants, farmworkers and the rural poor. There were 450 individuals in attendance. There were 20 workshops along with the annual training of the national and state advocate monitors. Luvy Martinez, migrant outreach worker from Fremont, Michigan, was the recipient for the Outstanding Migrant Outreach Worker Award.
- n Met and worked with the secretary of state and Mexican consulate on the acceptance of the Matricula Consular. Community concerns and information on the Matricula Consular requirements were discussed. The Matricula Consular has been passed by resolution at various cities such as Lansing, Muskegon, Flint and Saginaw.
- n Co-sponsored annual commemorative dinner with the Capitol Area Cesar E. Chavez Commission, which seeks better working conditions for farmworkers, in conjunction with the Hispanic Student Conference. The keynote speaker was Dolores Huerta, vice president of Farm Workers of America (AFW) Inc. She spoke to 1000 Michigan State University students and 800 Lansing Community College students about the importance of education and staying in school. State Farm Insurance sponsored leadership workshops conducted by Julie Rodriguez from the United Farm Workers (UFW) Foundation.
- n Co-sponsored with the Lansing Sister Cities Commission to promote student exchange between Lansing Community College and the community college in Guadalajara, Mexico. In addition, we assisted in locating student grants, interviewing students and assisting with host families.
- n Co-sponsored statewide workshops with the Homeland Security Office in Detroit to assist with monitoring the current process to ensure Hispanic community concerns are being heard. Concerns include racial profiling, freedom of movement, transparency and integrity at our borders and access to immigration rights.
- n Co-sponsored annual conference on Hispanic education to address the dropout rate of Hispanic youths and to encourage postsecondary and higher education enrollment. The attendees included 500 students from Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University, 200 students from Sienna Heights University and Lenawee School District, 300 students from Lansing Community College and 250 Michigan State University students.
- n Co-sponsored, with Representative Jerry Kooiman, the MI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Lansing Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a seminar on "How to Do Business With State, City, and County Government." The seminar was held at Grand Valley State University on August 2003 to help minorities become more successful business owners.
- n Co-sponsored with Lansing Community College the annual Cinco de Mayo event held on May 2. This event features traditional folklore dancers and local talent and focuses on the contributions made by Hispanic Americans. Approximately 600 people were in attendance.
- n The 2nd annual Michigan Farmworkers Appreciation Month was held in July. In celebration of farmworkers, different areas throughout Michigan held events within their communities. Events included fiestas with food, music and dancing, free physicals, donations of food and clothing to families within the communities and proper car seat installations done by local and state police departments. Antonio Meza Estrada of the Mexican Consulate conducted the Matricula Consular mobile workshop throughout the month.
- n Co-sponsored with Mexican Consulate office statewide workshops on Matricula ID cards and educational opportunities for U.S. and Mexican students and faculty.
- n There were overwhelming positive results from the Customer Satisfaction Survey that was completed in February 2003. It was found that 75% of the people surveyed thought that the publications/services of the commission were above average. Ninety-five percent of people surveyed thought that the Hispanic Heritage Month schedule and brochure were very important publications in keeping the Hispanic communities informed.

## 2003 Accomplishments (Continued)

- n The department's Ambassador Program continues to be a huge success. The commissioners participated in 32 presentations throughout the state in order to better inform Hispanic communities of Career Development's services and programs, and the commission's policy and procedures.
- n Co-sponsored Matricula Consular ID card presentation to Lansing mayor and city council. The resolution was passed to accept the Matricula Consular as an ID card in the greater Lansing area.
- n Co-sponsored meeting with Flint Hispanic Center Board and community leaders to advocate for a new facility and partnership with a local agency to serve Flint Hispanic population.
- n Co-sponsored radio program at Delta College with Commissioner Ricardo Verdoni to address Hispanic issues in the Saginaw tri-county area. The program will feature four 10-minute sessions.
- n Co-sponsored the Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education (ALSAME) conference at St. Lawrence University. The number of attendees was around 1500 students.
- n Co-sponsored and supported new program to retain Hispanic students at Lansing Community College. It will provide tutors, job training, social events and leadership training, among other options. Students must apply to be part of the program, called "Lucero," which means guiding light in Spanish. There are no guidelines to get into the program, but students must be willing to devote time to training and mentoring. About four percent of LCC's 19,000 students are Hispanics.
- n Co-sponsored workshops with Homeland Security Community Relations officers in reference to LIFE legalization application. The LIFE application period ended June 4, 2003.
- n Co-sponsored meeting with Dr. Francisco Villarruel from Michigan State University. Dr. Villarruel is the author of the project "Donde esta la Justicia?" which focuses on the sentencing disparity that exists in the juvenile justice system between teenage Latinos or Latinas and white teenagers. We will continue to work with local and state government to review the recommendations.
- n Co-sponsored meeting with Rector Jaime Guevara Villanueva from the Universidad Tecnologica de Coahuila, Mexico; Ms. Melinda Renkowitz, international recruitment liaison for St. Clair University at Windsor; and Michael Vourakes, vice president, St. Clair University at Windsor, to discuss the upcoming international education conference for Hispanic community leaders and educators as well as scheduling a meeting with Lansing Community College to strengthen the Hispanic Student Exchange Program with Michigan, Mexico and Canada.
- n Co-sponsored project and conducted press conference with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which awarded Cristo Rey Community Center Migrant Program \$7,400 to provide cancer awareness, education and screening. This is a combined breast and cervical cancer project addressing two of the Susan G. Komen Foundation priorities — information project with a minority focus and a screening recruitment program for indigent or underserved women with an evaluation plan. Both projects are staffed with volunteer staff from the Cristo Rey Family and Migrant Health Clinic in partnership with medical student volunteers from Michigan State University College of Human and Osteopathic Medicine; MSU/Sparrow Family Practice, Pediatric and Internal Medicine resident physicians and the MSU Department of Radiology. Also, Fred Ghannan, a Lansing business owner of Capital Pharmacy, also supports the Migrant Clinic by providing medicine at a discount. Dr. Ascension Mena, from El Paso, Texas, a 1972 graduate of Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, also donated over \$10,000 worth of medical supplies, medicine and equipment to the Cristo Rey Migrant Clinic.
- n Every year, around 40,000 migrants arrive in Michigan to harvest over \$2.1 billion worth of food. Migrant farm workers face significant barriers when attempting to access primary health care services because of limited proficiency in English, shortage of providers with hours that accommodate the typical migrant farm worker work day, cultural prejudices and payment issues. The Commission continues to advocate for better health care services for the Hispanic population in Michigan.
- n Co-sponsored with State Farm Insurance National Hispanic Women Leadership Institute breakfast. There were 200 Hispanic women from throughout the State of Michigan at this leadership informational workshop. The event talked about "how to get involved in your community and become a leader."
- n The National Foundation for Women Leaders and Legislators presented Executive Director, Ms. Marylou Mason with the 2003 Latina Leadership of the Year Award in Washington, D.C.

# Publications

n **History & Purpose**

This brochure, written in English and Spanish, describes the commission and its legislative mandates and functions.

n **Hispanic Media in Michigan**

This brochure is a compilation of the Hispanic media (newspaper, radio and television) in Michigan.

n **Have You Heard About Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan?**

This brochure describes what Hispanic Heritage Month is and offers suggestions on how to commemorate the contributions of Hispanics in Michigan.

n **Michigan's Hispanic Community...A Profile**

This brochure provides an extensive overview, with graphs and percentages, of Michigan's Hispanic community in regard to population, county concentrations, age groupings and composition, family types, marital status, education and educational attainment. *(This document is being updated with Census 2000 information.)*

n **Do It Yourself Personal Protection Order** (in Spanish only)

This brochure explains what a personal protection order (PPO) is and how it offers protection from harassment, assault, molesting and stalking, and explains how to go about obtaining a PPO.

n **Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs Fact Sheet**

This is a one-page fact sheet that provides information on the commission's purpose and activities.

n **Hispanic Resource Directory**

This directory is a compilation of services and agencies, listed by county, that are available. *(This document is currently being updated.)*

n **2002 Annual Report**

A report of the commission's accomplishments and activities for the year.

n **2001 Annual Report**

A report of the commission's accomplishments and activities for the year.

You may receive copies of any of the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs' publications by writing to:

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs  
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth  
201 N. Washington Square, Third Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48913  
(517) 373-8339 n E-mail: [cossa@michigan.gov](mailto:cossa@michigan.gov)

State of Michigan  
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth  
Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs  
Quantity: 300; Cost: \$529.37; Unit Cost: \$1.76; 1104-856  
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